Beautification of temple in Himachal Pradesh for tourism

1446. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposal for upgradation/beautification of Mata Durga Hatkoti Temple of Shimla, Himachal Pradesh on the pattern of Vaishno Devi temple;

(b) if so, the details thereto; and

(c) whether Government would include this temple in National Tourism Map as this is an ancient/famous temple of Himachal Pradesh and millions of devotees come here?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of State/U.T. Governments. However, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India extends Central Financial Assistance for tourism projects based on the proposals received from them complete in all respects as per the scheme guidelines, *inter-se* priority and subject to availability of funds.

Special Tourism Zones

1447. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up Special Tourism Zones;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism however, provides financial assistance to State Governments/Union Territories for tourism projects based on the proposals received from them subject to availability of funds and *inter-se* priority.

Visit India Year 2009

1448. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has launched the Visit India Year 2009 to attract more foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response received so far?